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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 67, ISSUE NO. 7 NOVEMBER 14, 2007 IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Students Honored at Reception

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students were honored for their academic achievements at the fall 2007 Dean's Reception on Nov. 8. Approximately 250 students attended the event, along with friends and family.

Valley President Tyree Wieder spoke of her pride at the number of students receiving dean's and president's honors.

"Today is a great day for recognizing all the achievements of our students, especially with their friends and family here," Wieder said. "You have made a commitment to be excellent students."

Full-time students must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 in 12 or more units, and part-time students must have a G.P.A. of 3.5 or more in at least six units to be eligible for the dean's list. Those students who are included on the dean's list for three consecutive semesters are elevated to the president's honor list. This semester, 315 students were placed on the president's list, with a further 1,069 students making it onto the dean's list for part-time

see *Dean's Reception* page 2

Empire of Screen Writers Strikes Back

The Writers Guild strike may have harsh repercussions for Valley Students.

BY BRAD TAYLOR
ONLINE EDITOR

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

DESPERATE SUPPORT- "Desperate Housewives" stars (l to r) Eva Longoria Parker, Marcia Cross and Nicollette Sheridan pose for a photo while walking with striking members on the Writers Guild picket line at Universal Studios on Lankershim Boulevard in Los Angeles Nov. 8.

Television and movie studios came to a near standstill this week when members of the Writers Guild of America stepped away from their keyboards and took up picket signs to go on strike. Valley College students may soon be feeling the effects with so much of their everyday lives tied to the entertainment industry.

The WGA and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers have failed in negotiations to settle the matter of residual rights for DVDs and especially "new media" in their current contract dispute. The writers are requesting an increase of 4 cents per disc to 8 cents a disc in revenue from DVD sales, citing lower production costs and the booming TV on DVD market that did not exist before.

"What it really boils down to are residuals," said Valley cinema Professor and writer/director Eric Swelstad. "We know the trickle down situation will hit Los Angeles, we ask for patience and understanding. We want this strike over as much as anyone."

The WGA wants the new worlds of iTunes, cell phones and digital downloads ironed out before they sign their rights away in a new contract that will affect a new generation of writers.

In a statement from AMPTP, President Nick Counter calls the WGA strike "precipitous and irresponsible." He also states, "Instead of working toward solutions that would give the industry the flexibility it needs to meet today's business challenges, the WGA leadership continues to pursue numerous unreasonable proposals that would result in astronomical and unjustified increases in our costs, further restrict our ability to produce, promote and market TV series and films, and prohibit us from experimenting with programming and business models in new media."

"We want them to use the same formula used for repeats on television," Swelstad said about residuals for downloading episodes

see *Strike* page 2

Valley Students Rocking for Youth Votes

CalPIRG aims to 'Rock the Vote' with college gig.

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students will have the chance to rock out and have their say in the 2008 presidential elections tomorrow at the 'Voting Rocks' concert, presented by the Valley chapter of the California Public Interest Research Group.

Six bands will play in Monarch Hall from 3 to 6 p.m. Free food will be available and the event will feature guest speakers from the Associated Student Union.

Zeke Reyes, president of the school's chapter of CalPIRG, explained his motivation for organizing the event.

"I see the youth as being disconnected from political issues, and [they] don't have full awareness of who they are voting for … having an event that is fun and that people can get involved in is a great way to get people interested," he said.

'Voting Rocks' will give students who are not registered to vote the opportunity to do so.

"We will have information packets for all candidates, whether they be Republican, Democrat…then people can see what their policy platforms are and what their track record is

see *Voting Rocks* page 2

JONATHAN GIBBY/ VALLEY STAR

IMPROVING EDUCATION - Tyree Wieder, President of Valley College, moderated a panel discussion called, "How Can We Make Our Workforce More Skilled," at the Economics of the Quality of Life Conference Thursday, Nov. 8.

Need for College Education Focus of Economic Forum

BY JAMES BENNETT
VALLEY STAR

An amalgamation of regional powerhouses assembled at the Economics of the Quality of Life conference Thursday to discuss the state of, and possible improvements to, the Los Angeles labor pool at the "How Can We Make Our Workforce More Skilled" discussion. Moderated by Valley College President Tyree Wieder, the panel featured Monica Garcia, president of the Los Angeles Unified School District board of education; Robert Sainz the assistant general manager of the Community Development Department; and Sen. Jack Scott, chair of the California Senate Committee on Higher Education. The panel discussed classical education, career technical education and their relationship to the community and workforce at large.

According to the various members of the panel, 90 percent of inmates are high school dropouts, and prisons are built based on fourth grade test scores. The state pays $4,500 a year per community college student, $9,000 a year per LAUSD student, and $25,000 a year per inmate. "One of the best ways to reduce crime is to reduce attrition in our schools," Scott said. "We need to be raising [students'] sights, informing them about college and introducing them to career technical education."

see *Forum* page 2

Essay Winner Stands Tall

Winner chosen in district's essay contest that gave students the chance to tell why "Love's Not Supposed to Hurt."

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Valley College's recent essay contest, "Love's Not Supposed to Hurt," gave students the opportunity to discuss domestic abuse, not only from the point of view of former victims, but also as advocates for those who have experienced abuse.

Shonnie Clayton, a psychology major, won first place with her essay about a four-year relationship with an abusive boyfriend. She will receive a $100 gift certificate to the campus bookstore and a certificate from the Los Angeles Community College District. Her achievement will also be recognized by LACCD Chancellor Mark Drummond at a meeting later this month.

Clayton wanted her "positive story" to help other victims of abuse. "[The topic] was something that was personal to me and I knew that . . . by talking to somebody, it got me through it and I think it's important to give back the lessons you've learned."

In her essay, she discussed her own experience with a violent boyfriend as well as the lessons she learned from her experience. She at first tried to "normalize the victimization [she] endured," but now knows, "Nobody deserves to be abused and as a personal survivor of relationship violence, I have learned that being a victim of violence does not make it my fault, nor was it ever my fault and nor will it ever be my fault."

Because the relationship she wrote about ended in 1995, Clayton has had time to reflect on the relationship.

"I got my life back by leaving my abusive partner and so I don't look back in anger, I look back in relief," Clayton wrote. "I found my way out of a harmful relationship by learning that what happens next is entirely up to me, I have choices, there is hope and I've reclaimed my self-respect; that makes me a living testament that life can start over for the better."

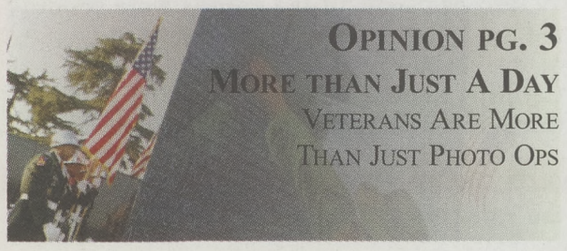
Although Valley chose winners out of the seven essays that were submitted, the contest took place at colleges throughout the Los Angeles Community College District. Both Pierce and LA Harbor have ongoing contests established on their campuses. Valley's submissions were judged based on the content, style and grammar.

"[The contest] allows . . . students to have a voice and I believe it really makes a difference," said Reed Walsh, program specialist for the CAHSEE program and also a member of the Healthy Advocacy Response Team that organized the contest.

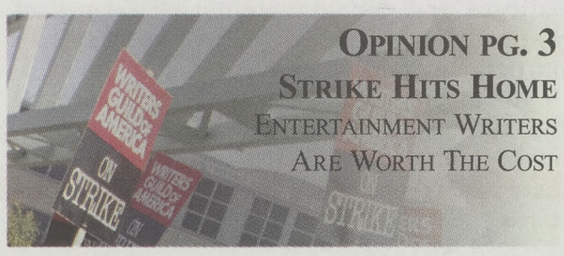
see *Essay* page 2

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

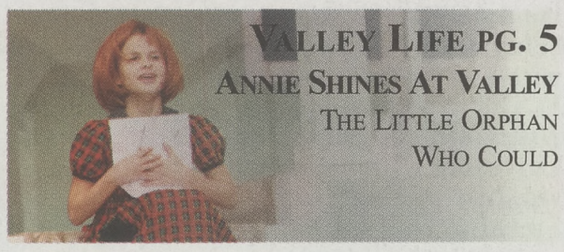
A FRESH START- Valley College student Shonnie Clayton, 33, says it was "liberating" to write her essay on her life-changing experience with domestic violence.



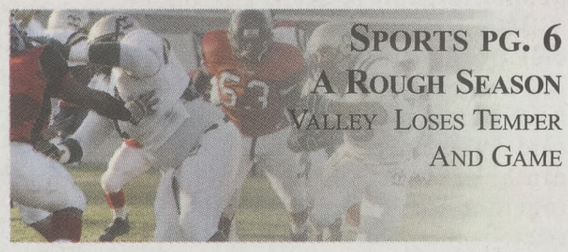
OPINION PG. 3
MORE THAN JUST A DAY
VETERANS ARE MORE THAN JUST PHOTO OPS



OPINION PG. 3
STRIKE HITS HOME
ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS ARE WORTH THE COST

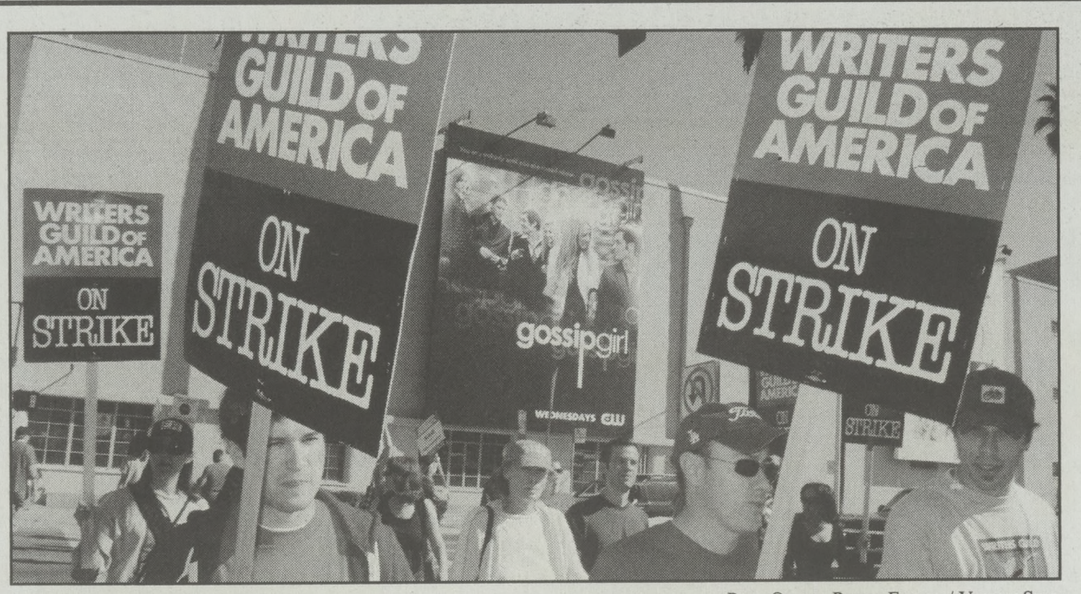


VALLEY LIFE PG. 5
ANNIE SHINES AT VALLEY
THE LITTLE ORPHAN WHO COULD



SPORTS PG. 6
A ROUGH SEASON
VALLEY LOSES TEMPER AND GAME

NEWS



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

WRITERS TRYING TO MAKE CENTS - Striking members of the Writers Guild of America began the second week of their walkout Monday at various Hollywood studios including Warner Bros. on Olive Avenue in Burbank.

'Strike'

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off websites like iTunes. "There is a scale already in place for that, but producers say downloads are an untested market, just like they did when home videos came out. Now they want 5 or 6 years before they decide on residuals, but they brag to their share holders in New York about the millions they are making off downloads."

The writers explain that this strike is about tomorrow's talent, and that many Valley students who aspire to be screenwriters will be the ones who truly benefit from a new contract.

"This battle is as much about the writers that come after us, than ourselves," said Trey Callaway, a writer for "C.S.I. New York, from a picket line in front of NBC studios in Burbank. "We are trying to ensure the next generation of writers are protected."

More than 12,000 writers will be affected by the strike. This is the first picket line since the 1988 WGA strike that lasted 22 weeks and cost studios an estimated $500 million. But Valley students who work in the Burbank area will be paying too. With so many people out of work, many businesses are cutting back on staff; restaurants, hotels and many other places that rely on foot traffic from the entertainment industry. Without the writers, production on major television series is shutting down. Shows like "Desperate Housewives" and "The Tonight Show" are now on hiatus and several more shutdowns are expected.

Already stars have been showing support for the writers. Jay Leno, Eva Longoria, Tina Fey and Julia Louise-Dreyfus have been seen on the picket lines delivering pizza, donuts or taking up signs themselves.

The writers are prepared for a long battle with current negotiations off the table. Viewers may soon be hit with reruns of their favorite shows, but many producers have been preparing for the strike and have advanced scripts written and ready to go. Movie producers have also been working hard in a race to get film scripts prepped as to not take too large of a hit.

Whatever the outcome, the events that transpire today on the picket lines will have a ripple affect that will be felt by students in the weeks and months ahead.

'Dean's Reception'

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students and 604 on the list for full-time students.

Paul Sabolic, a Valley alumnus and the current chair of the LAVC Athletic Hall of Fame, delivered the keynote address. He was also the first in his family to attend college. During his speech, he congratulated the honorees and encouraged them to continue to strive for excellence.

"Learning is a lifelong process, it doesn't just stop when you leave campus," he said. "Maximize every moment."

Derreck Bourdon, president of Tau Alpha Epsilon, Valley's honor society, served as the master of ceremonies, and spoke of the importance of recognizing academic distinction.

"It shows students validation of their efforts," said Bourdon, who is also the president of the national honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. "It also helps them realize that they are doing a good job, and to keep it up."

Sheri Berger, vice president of the academic senate, also addressed the attendees and noted the importance of the relationship between students and their teachers.

"Teachers motivate and inspire their students, and the students motivate and inspire their teachers in return…We are proud of you." she said.

Lori Wells, a pre-nursing major, was proud of her inclusion on the dean's list, which she has been on every semester since starting at Valley in winter 2006.

"I am especially proud because I am a single mother, holding down a job and still achieving a 4.0 G.P.A." she said.

Jennifer Thomas, a business/communications major, was similarly proud of her 4.0 G.P.A. during her first semester at Valley.

"It feels so great to get some recognition for all the hard work that I had put in, and it makes me want to work just as hard."

A Message from Valley College Sheriff's Department:

The goal of the escort program is to assist you safely from one location on campus to your vehicle. The service offers a walking escort or by electric cart. On some occasions the response time may take 10 to 15 minutes due to the popularity of the service, please be patient with the arrival of the escort cadet or security officer. The Escort Service consists of a six passenger electric cart that is available on-demand by calling the Sheriff's Office at (818) 947-2911.

- Wait for the cart or escort in a well-lighted area or inside the main doors to an academic building.
- If being picked up from your car, please wait in your car with your headlights on.
- Disruptive behavior is not tolerated and may result in removal from the cart and Sheriff intervention and/or referral to the college discipline system.
- Our escort drivers are required to obey all applicable traffic laws and college regulations. This includes cart seating capacity. If a cart is full, you will need to wait for its return.

The escort service is available during the academic year from sunset until 11:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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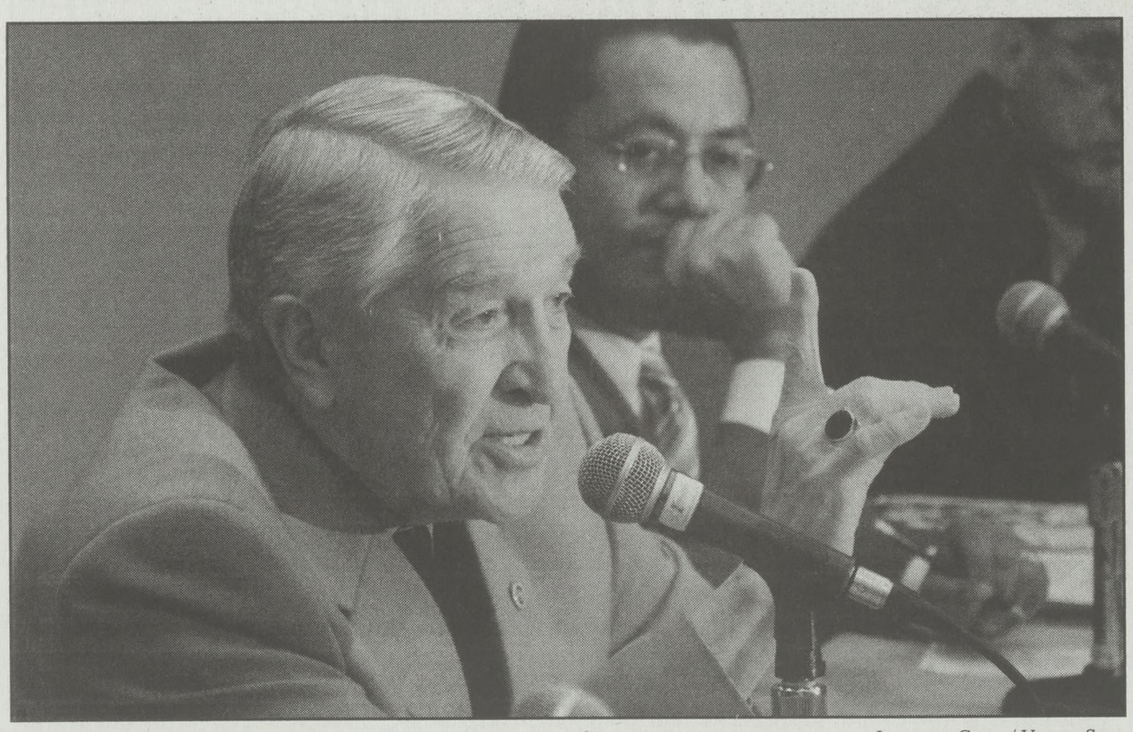

JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

MAKING HIS POINT - Sen. Jack Scott, chairman of the Calif. Senate Committee on Higher Education, advocates career technical education at the Economics of the Quality of Life Conference Nov 8.

'Forum'

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Scott champions career-centric education, noting that college is only one of many paths to financial stability. Recently he sponsored a bill that doled out $20 million to benefit the implementation and expansion of technical studies.

"If we emphasize career technical education, we will reduce dropout ratios." He explained that CTE could be multipurpose, integrating classical education and their real-world analogues. "[Teachers can] make career technical education more academic. We could teach geometry through construction training. It's the same geometry, and we need a variety of means for people to achieve self-fulfillment."

Monica Garcia addressed the deficiencies present in the LAUSD. "We are moving away from the mentality that less than a 50 percent graduation ratio is OK," she said. "We have schools that have 1,500 ninth graders and 500 seniors. I hope together we can rebuild the school district."

Robert Sainz expanded on that thought, "In LA there are 100,000 young people who are not at school and not at work. If we can't fill basic entry level jobs, what about the stable middle class?"

The panel discussed the necessity of education platforms being relevant in the private sector. In order to keep pace with a diverse global economy, they stressed the importance of an extremely flexible curriculum for all career-focused instruction.

Scott commented, "Schools and universities need to respond to the needs of the people, the city, and the state." Much to the pleasure of Dr. Wieder, he added, "Community colleges are on the forefront due to their ability to move quickly, and not have their own interests interfere with those of their students."

"I'm glad some of the barriers between the LAUSD and Community Colleges are being broken down," concluded Dr. Wieder with a grin dashed across her face.

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association hosted the event at the Universal Hilton thanks to funding provided by Boeing.

'Voting Rocks'

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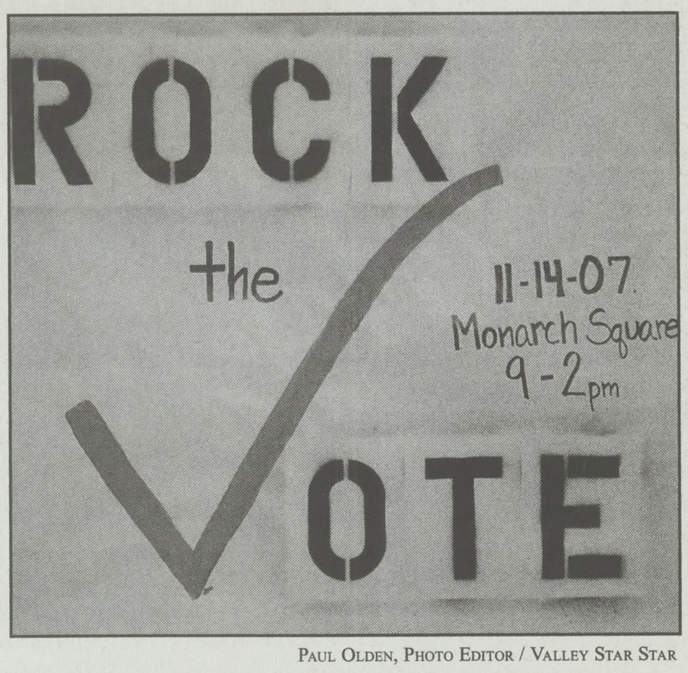

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR STAR

is like," said Reyes.

Caitlin Parker, CalPIRG campus coordinator, noted that there has been a lot of interest in 'Voting Rocks' so far. The organization is aiming to sign up around 300 new student voters at the concert. They will also be around the campus mustering up potential voters.

Blame the Noise, Glare and Los Arambula are some of the local bands scheduled to play the concert, with a variety of music on offer, from rock to ska. The groups became involved when organizers put the word out that they were encouraging students to vote, something that Reyes said is an issue close to many musicians hearts.

Crystal Sicairas, a member of CalPIRG, who organized the participating bands, said that most of the bands knew each other and were all excited to be playing. Event organizers will make a compilation disc of all the groups playing at "Voting Rocks." It will be available to purchase during the concert for $2. The proceeds will go to CalPIRG to assist them with getting established at Valley.

There will also be a food drive at the concert in preparation for Thanksgiving and the holiday season.

"We want to remind people that not everyone is fortunate enough to have food and family at Thanksgiving." said Reyes.

The concert is not the only event happening in the college district, with East Los Angeles and City College also holding similar gigs. Reyes said that the three colleges were aiming to host a combined 'Voting Rocks' event in February, before the presidential primary.

'Essay'

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"It's not just the administrators, not just the staff saying, 'We believe that community colleges and the community at large want you safe . . .,' but we want the students to participate and be involved."

According to a 2006 report released by the California Office of Women's Health, approximately 5.8 percent of women in the state experience some form of domestic violence each year. Last year, law enforcement officials in the state responded to 176,299 domestic violence calls, of which 80,946 involved weapons and 43,911 arrests were made for spousal abuse according to the California Department of Justice and the Bureau of Criminal Justice Statistics.

Because some of the entries were submitted anonymously, Walsh asks that the writer of the second place essay, titled "Love" and Carolina Leon, who wrote the entry that won third place contact him to receive their gift certificates and awards. He can be reached at (818) 778-5818 or in the graduation office in the Administration Building.

Without Writers, What's a Show?

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

While driving to the bank located right next to Universal Studios, I couldn't help but notice the 150 people outside the studio's lot, pacing back and forth with signs asking drivers to "honk." So that's exactly what I did because the writers are on strike for good reasons and I definitely support their decisions to stand up for their rights.

Television shows and films revolve around writers. They are the ones who come up with the story ideas and without them, there are no shows or films. The Writers Guild of America members want more money from the sale of TV shows sold on DVD, as well as those that can be downloaded on the Internet and seen on cellular phones. On the other hand, the studios and networks say that the media is evolving too early to know how much money they can make from offering entertainment on the Internet, cell phones, iPods and other devices.

Writers make approximately 3 to 4 cents per DVD sold, and have a right to make more since the writers are the ones who wrote the project. The writers want an estimated 4-cent increase, which they should get. Without the writers, the actors, directors, and cameramen would all be out of jobs. It's the creativity the writers bring that makes most of viewers watch a show.

Film and TV writers do not hold copyrights to their work, but creative writers in every other field (lyricists, composers, novelists, playwrights) receive an ongoing income based on sales. The right thing to do is to realize the integrity of paying writers a percentage.

The longer the strike continues, the more the audience will be affected. Viewers will slowly see a shift in television as it will all become reruns, reality TV shows, or people will just turn to the Web. But for right now, thank goodness for scripted TV. Since most sitcoms and TV dramas are written and planned ahead of time, it will be a while before shows such as "Lost" and "Desperate Housewives" go into continuous reruns.

I'm not a huge fan of TV because mostly everything aired on television is a rerun. They replay VH1's "I Love New York" or MSNBC's "To Catch A Predator" two times a day. No one is looking forward to 24-hours of reruns.

That is what the audience is going to have to deal with the longer the strike continues. The last strike was in 1988 and lasted approximately 5 months. Most viewers hope that this strike does not last nearly as long as the last one.

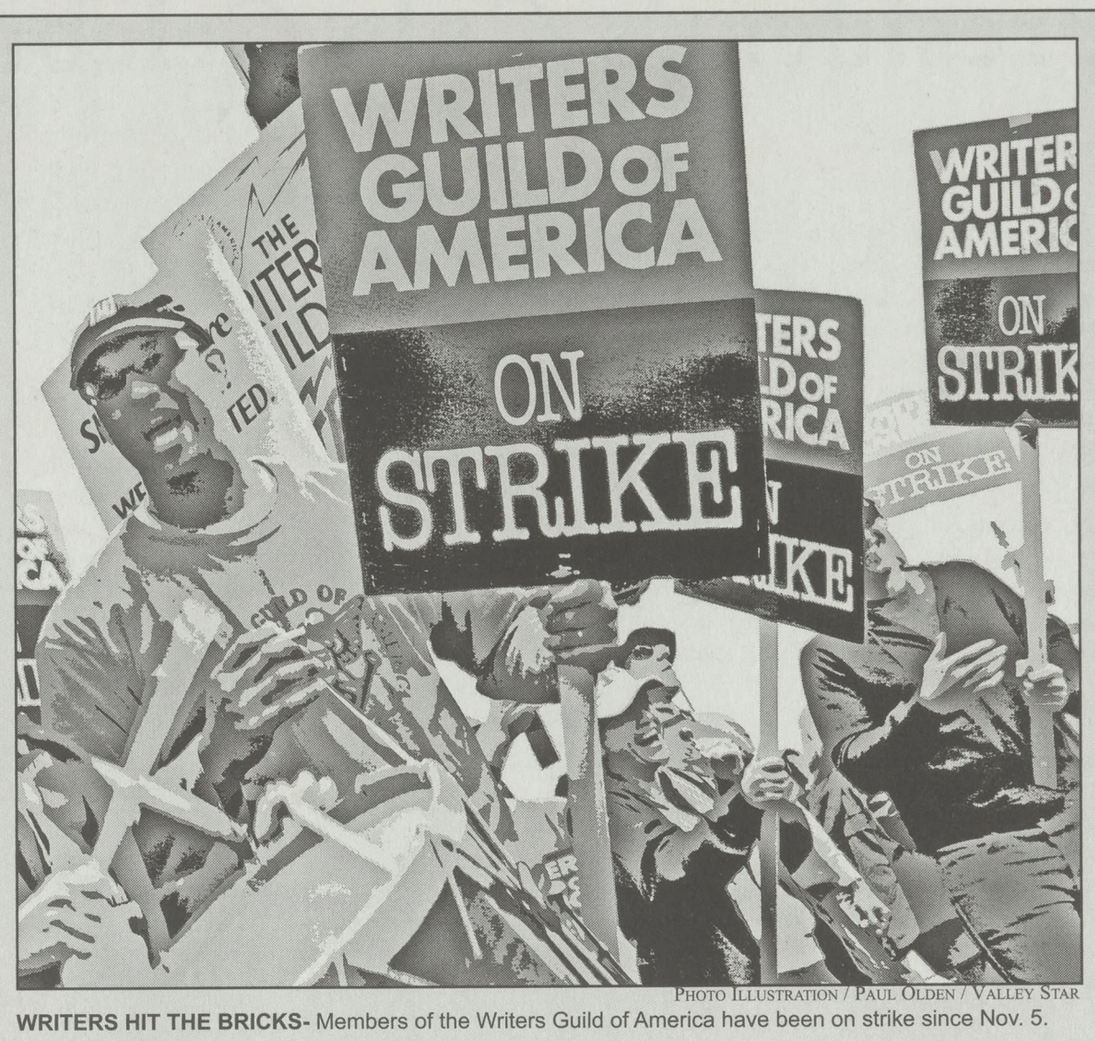

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

WRITERS HIT THE BRICKS- Members of the Writers Guild of America have been on strike since Nov. 5.

CAMPUS View

How do *you* feel about the writers' strike?

photos by Paul Olden

"I don't think it is the right time. I don't think they're going to find the resonance in the media and with the people."
- Ace Rengulov, nursing

"I don't really know. I know they've pushed back '24', and I'm disappointed about that."
-Katrina Herrera, undecided

"I don't think it will really affect me. Because of my busy student life I don't really have time to watch the TV."
-Daminda Dinesh, general engineering

"I think they should be making more money because they are probably underpaid."
- Mike Wahpat, economics

Unable to Break up Religion and Politics

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Today, President George W. Bush, a born again Christian, sits in the White House, the same president that led us into the Iraq war after consulting with God. Such a faith-based presidency has left some Americans fearing the influence of religion on our politics.

The 2008 presidential election promises to be a historical one, mostly because of race and gender, but what about religion? Judging from the panel of presidential candidates, America is not ready for a non-religious leader.

The fear of Republicans opting for a third-party candidate, when presidential contestant Rudolph Giuliani seems like the likely candidate for the Republican Party, appears to have driven Pat Robertson, one of nation's best-known televangelists, to declare his endorsement of Giuliani on Nov. 7.

Giuliani, a supporter of gay and abortion rights, seems like an unlikely ally for Robertson who opposes both. Robertson's endorsement shows the power religion has on politics. The face of Robertson next to Giuliani suddenly makes the latter more appealing to conservatives who otherwise would have rebelled against their own party.

Even the thought of having a Democratic candidate on the ballot who has no religious beliefs seems impossible. Hillary Clinton and John Edwards are members of the Methodist Church. Barack Obama belongs to the United Church of Christ. Religious affiliation is included in every contestant's profile, which goes to show the importance we place on the faith of our future leader.

According to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, around 61 percent of Americans say that they would be less likely to vote for a presidential candidate who does not believe in God. In addition, 64 percent of Americans say that religion or the lack thereof, could make them vote against a well-qualified candidate.

Even with my disenchantment with this God-oriented administration, I don't see myself voting for a nonbeliever. And with today's new wars of religion, it would be difficult for a non-religious leader to step into the White House. Assuming the role of chief executive for the next four years means having to deal with Iran, Iraq, and the religious conflict between Shiites and Sunnis. It is impossible to have secular solutions to religious problems.

Veterans Need Our Respect, not Empty Politics

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Veterans Day is meant to serve as a day for all Americans to stop, reflect on and thank this country's servicemen and women for their willingness to sacrifice their health and their lives. Unfortunately, between the parades and politicians doing what they can to take advantage of the photo ops with soldiers, many of these patriots who went to war for this country have been forgotten.

"I think [Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans will] be forgotten," said John Keaveney, who fought in Vietnam and founded New Directions, an organization that helps veterans get over substance abuse as well as provides them with job training and shelter.

"It's not glitzy that these are young, honorable, patriotic Americans. They'll just be veterans, and that happens after every war," he said.

The United States has a long history of paying tribute to fallen soldiers while ignoring those who survive. The term "red tape" originated with the struggles Civil War veterans faced to receive payment for their service. During the Great Depression, soldiers who fought in World War I marched on Washington, DC because they did not receive the benefits they were entitled to. And soldiers have had to overcome this same obstacles after returning from more recent wars as well.

"The Vietnam era veterans had to fight for almost everything they got. They had to go out and fight for the G.I. Bill extension," said Sen. John Kerry, a Vietnam veteran, in an interview with National Public Radio. "They had to fight for Agent Orange recognition . . . [and] for outreach centers and the PTSD recognition."

According to a study released by the non-profit group Alliance to End Homelessness, veterans make up approximately one in four of the nation's homeless while they count for only 11 percent of the civilian population over 18.

The same study found that, in 2006, on any given night, 195,827 veterans were on the streets.

This is a national disgrace – these Americans were willing to risk grave injury and death and we do not have the decency to ensure that they have at least the bare essentials for life once they return home.

COURTESY OF PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN

THE MALADIES OF MODERN MANNERS

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

Growing up, my mother always taught me to be well mannered – to say "Excuse me" if I bumped someone, to thank my friend's parents if I stayed the night, and to always say "Please" and "Thank You" when I wanted something. I like to think that I have carried these manners into my adulthood, but it seems that not everyone on campus was lucky enough to have my Mom teach them basic etiquette.

Walking in and around Valley College, bad manners assault me like a pack of seagulls demolishing leftover fries. I regularly get hipped-and-shouldered while trying to walk down the breezeway, rarely get a please or thank you while working my job in the administration building, and have been unlucky enough to be spat on by one of my fellow students, who seemed to not care where his wayward emission landed. And don't even get me started on the state of the bathrooms. Just one piece of advice, ladies – we sit down to do our business! I don't ever want to have to wipe your leftovers off the seat.

Smokers, you don't escape this lecture on manners either. I will admit that I am friends with many smokers, and I stand with them (with the wind going in the right direction) while they get their nicotine fix. However, every one of them puffs away in the designated areas around the college, not walking around and giving everyone the chance to passive smoke. There is nothing more unpleasant when you are just trying to get from one class to another than having to find a walkway where you are not wading through clouds of smoke and discarded cigarette butts. I'm just waiting for the day when I see a squirrel with a half inhaled cancer stick hanging out its mouth.

The biggest peeve I have regarding manners is with those people who think the ladies like to be hollered at from passing cars while walking to and from school. Here's a news flash – this is the only time we're not going to say "Thanks!" in return, you're just going to get the good old fashioned finger instead.

It is not hard at all to possess good manners, much easier, in fact, than possessing the manners of a caveman. Just think of how nice is it when someone thanks you for holding a door open, or has the courtesy to doff their hat and sunglasses when they come inside. If every one of us made a little effort when it came to etiquette, our campus would be a much friendlier place.

President's Gala Celebrates a Greener Valley

BY JOSH SPENCE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Chevron Energy Solutions was honored at the sixth annual Los Angeles Valley College President's Gala for its contributions in helping Valley become more environmentally conscious.

Nearly 350 people attended this year's Gala with the event grossing approximately $95,000. The proceeds will fund student scholarships, departmental projects and general support for the college through the LAVC Foundation.

"I thought it was a success," said Raul Castillo, executive director of the LAVC Foundation. "It's an event that, every year, we use to inform the community of what's going on at Valley College." He explained, "It is also an event where we get a chance to honor those who've supported Valley College."

"I was very pleased with the event," said Valley President Tyree Wieder.

"We are very interested in carrying the message of a 'greener' Valley, both because of our buildings and building a sustainable academic future for our students."

Over the past five years Chevron Energy Solutions has helped retrofit buildings on campus to make use of solar power energy.

All new and existing buildings will meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards in sustainability resources and energy producing materials.

The three- story Allied Health and Sciences Center, which will house classrooms and teaching labs, will incorporate energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, lighting photovoltaic panels for energy generation as well as a storm water retention pond in future landscaping. The building is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2008.

COURTESY OF VALLEY COLLEGE

ENJOYING THE NIGHT- Valley College president, Dr. Tyree Wieder speaks to a gathering of 350 at the sixth annual LAVC President's Gala. Chevron Energy Solutions' contributions to the "greening" of Valley College was recognized with an award.

Valley Star Staff Wins Awards at J.A.C.C.

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Valley Star received its ninth General Excellence award in the last ten semesters at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges' Southern California convention, which was held Nov. 2 and 3 at Cal State Fullerton.

General Excellence, which was awarded to 15 community college newspapers, is the association's most prestigious award and is given to those publications whose content shows an overall standard of excellence.

"Winning General Excellence means a lot to me and the newspaper," said Will Reyes, the editor in chief for the spring semester. "I'm proud of the award both personally and for the entire Valley Star staff. We put a lot of hard work and dedication into the paper last semester, so being recognized as one of the best college newspapers is a major accomplishment."

The newspaper's staff also won individual awards both for the mail-in submissions that were entered at the end of last semester as well as in the on-the-spot competitions that took place at the convention. They include recognition in opinion writing, critical review as well as photography.

Paul Olden, the newspaper's photo editor, won first place in the on-the-spot sports photography competition for his photo of a member of Cal State Fullerton's women's volleyball team.

"I felt a great sense of accomplishment," he said. "I planned what I was going to do and things fell into place at the volleyball game and my preparation paid off."

Brad Taylor, the Star's online editor, explained his reaction to winning third place in the mail-in competition for his review of "Grindhouse."

"The paper has a tradition of winning awards and having really good writing and I feel like I was a part of that," he said.

For a full list of winners and to see some of the winning photographs, visit the Valley Star Online at www.lavalleystar.com.

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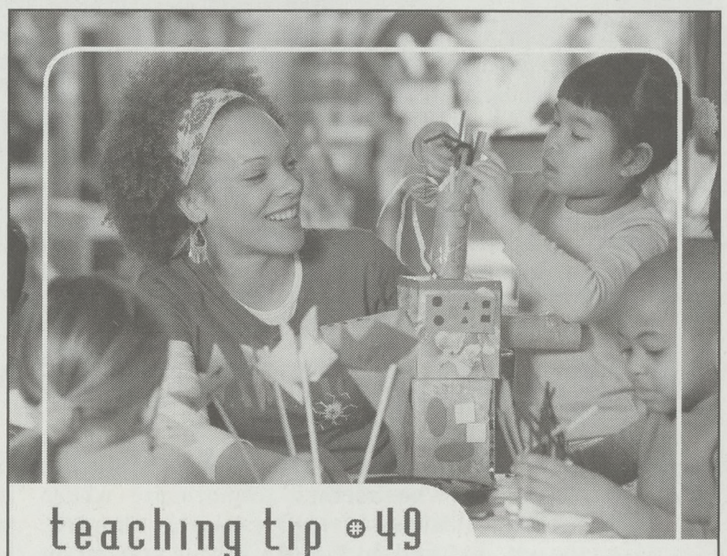

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WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

What's New Online @ lavalleystar.com

"Fred Claus"
By Josh Spence

"American Gangster"
By Oscar Chicas

"Dan in Real Life"
By Jessica Rawstron

"Bee Movie"
By Josh Spence

New CD Releases:

Dane Cook- *Rough Around the Edges*

The Killers- *Sawdust*

Led Zeppelin- *Mothership*

AFI- I Heard A Voice – *Live From Long Beach Arena*

Alicia Keys- *As I Am*

New Theatre Releases:

Love In The Time of Cholera
Benjamin Bratt, Liev Schreiber, John Leguizamo

Beowulf
Angelina Jolie, Ray Winstone, John Malkovich, Anthony Hopkins

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium
Natalie Portman, Dustin Hoffman, Jason Bateman

I'm Not There
Christian Bale, Cate Banchett, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger

Hitman
Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, Olga Kurylenko

Don't forget to YouTube:

Bas Rutten Street Defense

Best cat jump ever

God Inc. Episode 1

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Wednesday, November 14
Mount St. Mary's Rep 10-1
University of Phoenix Rep 10-1
Undecided Major/Career workshop 5:30-6:30

Thursday, November 15
UC Los Angeles Rep 9-3
UC Berkeley Rep 10-1
UC Santa Barbara Rep 10-1
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 1-2

Monday, November 19
UC Los Angeles Rep 9-3
UC San Diego Rep 9:30-2
Woodbury Rep 10-3
College Application workshop 5:30-6:30
College Personal Statement Workshop 5:30-7 Humanities 102

Tuesday, November 20
CSU Northridge Rep 5-7
College Application Workshop 1-2
College Personal Statement Workshop 1-2:30 Humanities 102

Wednesday, November 21
UC Riverside Rep 10-2
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30-6:30

Monday, November 26
UC Irvine Rep 10-2
College Application Workshop 5:30-6:30

Tuesday, November 27
UC Santa Barbara Rep 10-1
CSU Northridge Rep 10-1 and 5-7
CSU Los Angeles Rep 5-7
College Application Workshop 1-2

Theatre Review

Valley Welcomes Little Orphan "Annie"

BRAD TAYLOR
ONLINE EDITOR

"Annie" is a great musical to get you in the mood for the holidays with its cheerful premise and talented company of actors, as well as songs that will forever be stuck in your head long after you leave the theater. In these days full of wild fires and writers strikes it is nice to know that the sun will come out tomorrow.

Orphans, outlaws and FDR all sing and dance their way through the Great Depression in the Valley College Theatre Arts Department's delightful production of "Annie."

The musical is an adaptation of the classic comic strip featuring the pupil-challenged orphan who first appeared in 1924. The red headed curly topped little girl hoofed it to Broadway in 1977 where her Depression era adventure finds Annie in search of her parents.

Cathy Pyles directs this show in its five performance run at Valley's Horseshoe Theatre with a light touch that is served up like great comfort food, she knows the make or break aspect of the production is in finding the right Annie. Happily, Pyles has found the right little girl to put on the trademark red dress.

Young Lindsay Ryan fits into the title role with a grace seldom seen in someone of her age. Ryan mixes moxie with genuine adorable as she belts out such famous tunes as "Tomorrow" with total conviction, and most important, she never crosses the line of too cutesy.

The rest of the orphans do their part, singing and scrubbing floors like most old- time kids. Kaleigh Ryan amps up the cute factor through the roof as Molly, the youngest of the cast who is so sweet you may need to see a dentist after the show.

Annie's foil Miss Hannigan is played with gusto by Lindsay Bytof. Her rendition of "Little Girls" is a sharp contrast to the saccharine sweet songs that surround it. Bytof knows her way around the stage and has a great rapport with the children, and her comic timing really shines through any time she has to deal with those merry moppets.

Marjorie Vander Hoff's choreography is simple and charming, never overshadowing the production but blending seamlessly into it. All the players tackle the routines with aplomb, making up for any rhythm challenges with big smiles and enthusiasm.

The music direction is held together quite well by Patricia Hannifan who keeps things moving with upbeat overtures and those now very familiar songs. The cast also keeps the beat with better than average vocalists who show remarkable restraint when competing with Annie who remains at the center without being lost in the music.

The show is a perfect fit for adults and children who may never have experienced a stage show. The colorful sets and costumes will keep kids interested in between musical numbers. Real-life puppy Harrison as Annie's dog Sandy is sure to inspire "awws" as he runs across the stage and manages to sit still while people are singing and dancing all around him. A trick I am sure all parents would want to know during the 90-minute production.

The musical runs November 9th and 10th as well as the 15th, 16th, and 17th at 8p.m. in the Mainstage Theatre. Tickets are $15 general admission, $10 students and seniors. For more information and reservations call 818-947-2790.

PAUL OLDEN PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

ORPHAN DAYS ARE NUMBERED- The Valley College production of "Annie" showcases the talents of 10- year- old Lindsay Ryan as Annie. Michael "Tuba" Heathrton as Daddy Warbucks, right, and Tracy McBurnett as Grace Farrell. The remaining performances are capped off by two shows Nov. 17.

Workshop Helps Students

OSCAR CHICAS
STAFF WRITER

You see them flock to school every semester like moths to a flame. Or at least at the beginning. They always seem to be taking classes but never transfer. These people are known as the stereotypical community college students.

Last week the Ubuntu workshop was held at Valley College Horseshoe Theatre as a kick off for its first meeting. Ubuntu is a series of workshops that intends to provide students with information regarding student services, financial aid, and social networking.

Ubuntu is derived from the Zulu and Bantu language that means a community is responsible for the individual, just as the individual is responsible for its community.

Workshop organizer and African American Studies Professor Tara Lake said, "This is definitely a labor of love. It is an opportunity to talk about issues and concerns regarding African American students, staff and faculty. There has to be a way for us to talk about it."

The workshop presented vital statistics concerning students of African- American descent on campus. A survey of 1,031 students was conducted by Ubuntu to present the statistics at the kick off workshop.

Students of African American descent who attempted nine units had an average GPA of 2.39. Males had a 2.34, while Females had a 2.45, and the athletes a 2.39.

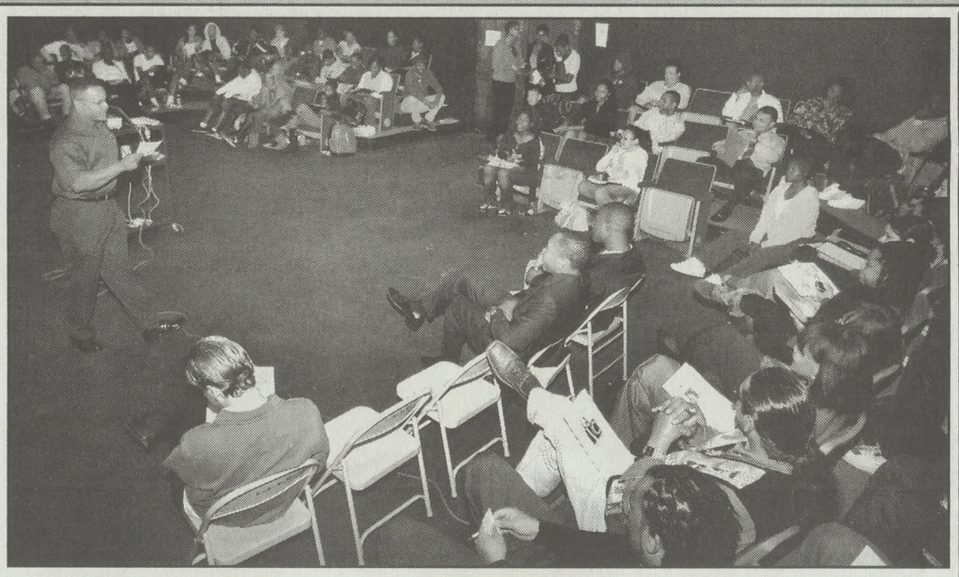
"I'm personally tired of hearing the stereotypes of our male black athletes. I get it more at USC, but to get it here is weird because we are more of a minority campus," said Professor James McKeever of the Sociology and Ethnics department.

There were 52 African-American students with GPA's of 3.0 or higher who were surveyed, 35 of which were women and 17 men. Ninety five students with GPA's of 3.5 were also surveyed with 59 women and 36 men. With this many students gaining high GPA's a portion of the students at the workshop had no idea what the Transfer Alliance Program was or that it existed, many were also put off by the counseling office.

"It goes back to counseling, I have a 4.0. But when I went for counseling I was being steered to schools I didn't want to go to," said African American studies and Political science major Eboni Haynes.

During the Q&A students aired some realizations and concerns about the stats the workshop presented. "What's the point of knowing if you're not taking advantage of it," said Valley student Cherry Wilkins.

At the end of the workshop the crowd moved to the lawn where an iPod Nano was raffled and Jamaican food was served for all those in attendance.



PAUL OLDEN PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

CALLING THE SHOTS- Valley College football coach Jimmy Sims, who is also a health instructor the the school, gives a speech to students and faculty about career goals.

Ode to the Dead

The Dead Poets Slam, an annual event hosted by the English Circle and Professor Ida Ghaffari, encourages Valley College students to explore the works of nonliving poets through competitive performance. There were 13 students who participated in the event last Thursday in the Cafeteria Conference Room. This story is written in the traditional ode form as a tribute to their efforts.

Forget stuffy, boring recitations.
The Dead Poets Slam this past Thursday brought
Instead stale poetry's resuscitation,
And made light and fun what might have been not.
The students belted and sang classic words.
"What is really amazing is that some
Are just electrifying," Ghaffari.
In this competition without rewards,
Mere love of poetry made their hearts hum
Points seemed meaningless and arbitrary.

Grouped into three teams, they read each by each,
Of death, of love, of pride, and betrayal.
Some in suits, some in jeans. But with clear speech
They articulated detail:
Pinero's young man died seeking the cause,
Dylan asked for raging at close of day,
There were too, Blake's soft lambs and tygre's eyes,
A quite meeting with sensuous Paz,
Khalil's cautions of loving only one way,
And Maya had diamonds between her thighs.

The professors as judges seemed amused,
Glad to have students engaged at the school.
Performers agreed the event was cool,
Even if at times, they appeared confused.
At least they could guess where the meanings hid
By the choice of voice that rose through the air;
A translator of text with wild flair.
An easy hour of poetry slid,
As they gave all that they could possibly take,
And in the end, for everyone, there were slices of cake.

- SARAH BISHOP, OPINION EDITOR

Valley People

Cohen's Motherly Advice is Nice Addition to Counseling

ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

Sitting down behind her desk in the Counseling Office after brewing a pot of morning coffee, Selma Cohen picks up the ringing phone and begins her day by helping out another student in need.

"I love working with the students and getting to know them," said Cohen of her job. "I have to try hard and not be a counselor. I just stick to giving out motherly advice."

Cohen, a Brooklyn native, has been a counseling secretary at Valley College for 12 years, and is one of the first people you see and hear when you head into the department. More often than not, she is crowded by students who need appointments, or just good old-fashioned advice.

Former student Bryan Valle, 21, recalls how Cohen helped him out when he was in need of academic counseling.

"Selma knows this school inside and out," said Valle. "Whenever I have felt lost or not sure what to do, she is always there to help."

Perched at her desk, which is more like a command center than a workstation, Cohen affectionately points to the many photos of her family. Cohen and her partner Jules have 6 children and 11 grandchildren, and she proudly explains how one of her granddaughters, a high school varsity swimmer, beat a boy in a race.

There is limitless praise throughout the Admistration Building when Cohen's name is mentioned.

"Counseling is lucky to have her," said Marsha Respress, who works in the Graduation Office. "She's a laugh and she has such a huge heart."

Gayane Harutyunyan, one of Cohen's fellow receptionists, agrees.

"She's really helpful and so friendly, that's really important to students."

Leaning over her desk, the morning rush of students making their way through counseling, Selma dispenses another of her pearls of wisdom.

"Life is about learning every day....and that's all I have done here [at Valley]...I've learned."

JUAN ROBLES / VALLEY STAR

Ready to Help- Selma Cohen shares her knowledge with students and faculty alike.

LAVC SCORES

The weekend's California Community College football scores as compiled by the JC Athletic Bureau:

NORCAL CONFERENCE

Foothill 41, Feather River 20

San Mateo 52, Santa Rosa 42

San Francisco 34, Butte 16

VALLEY CONFERENCE

Reedley 42, Fresno 40

San Joaquin Delta 28, West Hills 16

Sierra 59, Sequoias 57

GOLDEN GATE CONFERENCE

Diablo Valley 64, Los Medanos 28

Modesto 47, West Valley 28

Chabot 45, Hartnell 14

MID-EMPIRE CONFERENCE

Laney 37, Merced 30 (2 OT)

American River 29, Sacramento 19

Siskiyous 49, Shasta 26

BAY VALLEY CONFERENCE

Redwoods 71, Marin 0

Mendocino 49, Solano 12

Yuba 55, Contra Costa 21

COAST CONFERENCE

Cabrillo 38, Gavilan 10

Monterey Peninsula 34, De Anza 26

WESTERN STATE MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Allan Hancock 42, LA Southwest 33

Bakersfield 45, Canyons 41

LA Harbor 43, Santa Barbara 28

West Los Angeles 49, East Los Angeles 6

WESTERN STATE PACIFIC DIVISION

Citrus 17, Glendale 10

LA Pierce 31, LA Valley 17

Moorpark 59, Compton 21

Ventura46, Santa Monica 0

FOOTHILL CONFERENCE

Grossmont 79, Mt. San Jacinto 21

Victor Valley 34, San Bernardino Valley 15

Desert 38, San Diego Mesa 27

Southwestern 20, Antelope Valley 17

MISSION AMERICAN DIVISION

Palomar 52, Golden West 49

Orange Coast 20, Long Beach 14

LAVC SCHEDULE

Cross Country

November 16/17 - 10:00
State Finals
@Fresno

Monarch Basketball

Nov. 16-18 - TBA
Consumnes River Tournament
@ Sacramento

Nov. 23-24
Moorpark Thanksgiving Tournament

Monarch Women's Basketball

Nov. 14
long beach city college
@Valley

Nov. 23- 25
Pierce College Tournament

WSC FOOTBALL

Valley's Bell Rung in Grudge Game

BY PAUL OLDEN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Alert Congress and newly confirmed attorney general Michael Mukasey to a possible new form of torture:

Valley College football.

Monarch fans suffered through a 37-17 loss Saturday at Pierce College in the annual battle for ownership of the Victory Bell.

Those same fans endured enough dropped passes, costly fumbles and ill-timed interceptions this year to go search for some back-of-the-book Geneva Convention violations.

Coach Jimmy Sims was unhappy with the inability of his team to cap off drives with touchdowns.

"We practiced a couple of things [Pierce] allowed us to do in the running game and we weren't successful with them," Sims said.

He was at a loss for words to explain the season-long lack of discipline, which led to 195 yards worth of penalties in Saturday's game alone.

"You tell 'em and you teach 'em not to do that stuff," Sims said.

"But they come out here and their emotions run high and they do it [commit penalties] and it's inexcusable."

Sims called the penalty parade "embarrassing … I'm actually embarrassed."

Pierce (5-5) compiled 151 yards in infractions.

Right or wrong, the coaching staff is usually held accountable for on-the-field conduct.

In the first five minutes of the game, Valley College players committed two personal fouls. One of those penalties came on Pierce's first offensive series after the Brahma Bulls recovered an Anthony Dickson fumble on the Valley 13 yard line.

Some of the players knew they had a problem with keeping cool in the heat of a game.

Kick returner-defensive back Kevin Benford says the coaches tried to instill discipline, "but the players didn't follow."

A highlight of the second quarter after Paul Landon's 25-yard field goal put the Monarchs on the scoreboard was Anthony Dickson's 55-yard weaving run after catching a short swing pass from Troy Jackson for a touchdown and a 10-7 Monarch lead with 2:24 to go till halftime.

Dickson, who finished third in the Western State Conference with 1,203 rushing yards, compiled 149 yards on 18 carries against Pierce, and 75 yards from five receptions.

Dickson was the only running back in the WSC to carry the ball more than 200 times.

Valley's fourth personal foul helped Pierce get into position for a 31- yard field goal by Bradley Borreson with 6:19 in the third quarter.

Next was the series that was a microcosm of the Monarch's offensive woes this season.

After Benford had another yard-gobbling kick off return and Victor Hines caught a 26-yard pass, the offensive bogged down just inside the 5-yard line and a fourth down and 2, Dickson, who ran behind a re-worked offensive line, was stopped well short of the end zone and Valley gave up the ball on downs.

PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

RUN TO DAYLIGHT- Valley College running back Anthony Dickson (5) capped off his season by rushing for 149 yards on 18 carries at Pierce College where the Monarchs lost 37-17. Dickson finished third in the Western State Conference rushing race with 1,203 yards. He led the WSC with 225 carries.

In the fourth quarter, the Monarchs were able to score again.

A Josh Streid interception led to a 35-yard touchdown run by Dickson to cut the Valley deficit to 24-17 with 12:51 to go in the game.

But those turned out to be the final points for Valley.

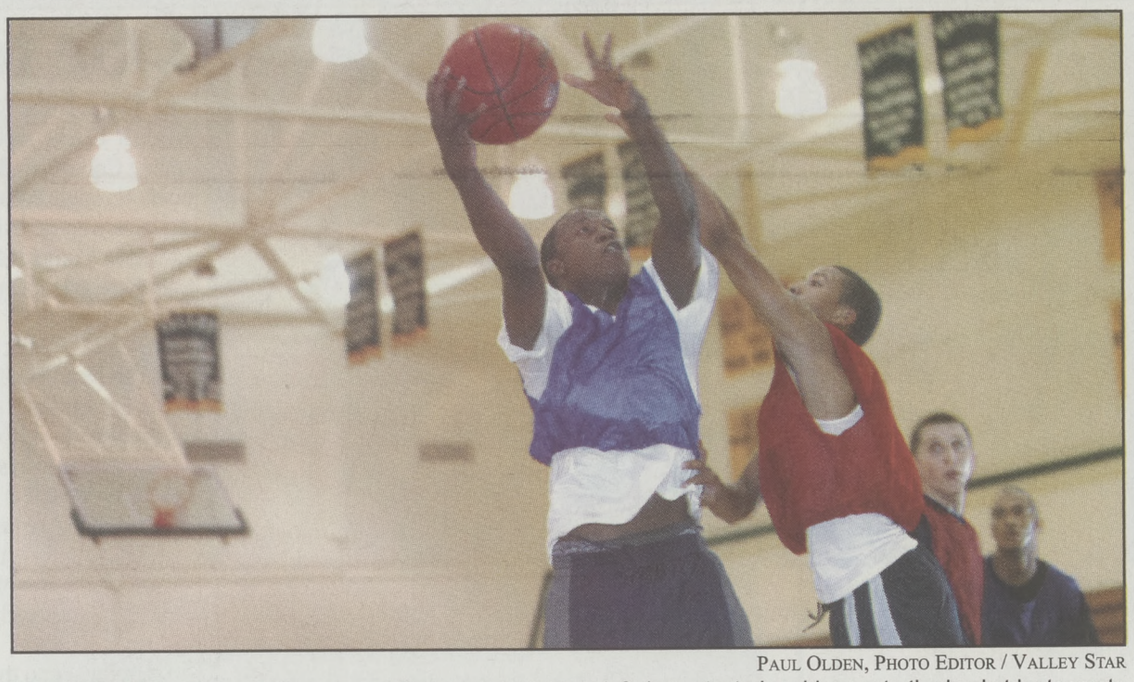
Pierce added two more touchdowns—helped in part by penalties against Valley—to seal the game.

Before the game ended, the Monarchs did stand out again albeit in a negative way, adding its fifth personal foul with 3:01 remaining when receiver Victor Hines was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct and ejected.

For some players, like defensive lineman Phillip Garrett and kick returner Kevin Benford, it's on to a Division I school to continue their athletic careers.

Benford says he's headed to the University of Cincinnati. Garrett is considering Fresno State University.

For the returning players, they can only hope things will get better.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

TO THE HOOP - Valley College guard Dewayne Anderson, left, is contested on his way to the basket by teamate Bo Bennett during a practice session on campus recently.

Transition Game Could Change Monarch Fortunes

BY ERIC L. PATTEN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The buzz among the Valley College men's basketball team is that a deep roster and high-energy style will generate victories and not just easy buckets.

A season ago, depth and inexperience both contributed to a disappointing 11-19 finish. Now, with 10 sophomores and a newfound vigor for defense, the Monarchs are expecting much more.

"We can go undefeated," said guard Ron Holden. "I really feel that way."

Head coach Virgil Watson's high expectations are predicated on the team's early season strengths, and have started the season with a 2-1 record after a weekend in the Ventura Tournament.

"We can be deep at almost all of our positions," he said. "We'll probably go 14 or 15 guys deep. Whether they start or come off the bench, they can all do something that will help us win basketball games. They're not all at the same level, but they all can contribute something."

Along with depth, the team should be able to dictate game tempo by using a frantic, pressing defense.

"We're going to try and do that so we can get easy baskets," said Watson, who's in his second year with the Monarchs. "Also, we want to put the ball in the gaps [offensively], use our quickness to penetrate, kick to open shooters, get the ball inside and play a little faster [than the team's opponents'] comfort level."

Freshman point guard Bo Bennett said that by bringing a high level of energy on defense, it will in turn, help create what the team is calling transition offense.

Theoretically, controlling the tempo and pushing the defense into the frontcourt will allow the Monarchs to take advantage of their conditioning and athleticism on both ends of the floor.

Holden and fellow captain Demetrius Malone return for their second season and will likely be counted on to help set this rapid pace.

Malone, a 6-foot 5-inch wing from Palmdale, says there is a tremendous advantage to having experience. "This year, we understand what we're getting ourselves into."

In addition, sophomores Shon Williams, Gino Riney, Shaun Johnson, Nate Bichara and Michael Nmvoya could all provide highlights in this year's rotation.

Still, excitement is one thing, producing on the court is another.

Since 1981, Valley leads the Western State Conference in winning percentage (.662), but has not won a conference title in five years.

According to assistant coach Nate Connor, the motto for the '07-08 season is "win the last game." The Monarchs just hope that game includes a trophy.

Lady Monarch Cagers Shut Down Seahawks

BY KIM DURAN
STAFF WRITER

What started off as a slow game quickly picked up in the second half in the Lady Monarchs' favor as they pulled away to beat Harbor College 76-39 Nov. 7.

The first half was plagued with turnovers from the Monarchs as they missed several lay-ups and easy passes that could have led to them scoring. Valley had a tough time controlling the ball for most of the first half and their turnovers led to the Seahawks taking a 10-point lead. Valley would come back to finish the first half tied with Harbor 27-27.

The Monarchs became more aggressive in the second half starting with a 3-pointer from guard Mariam Asaryan and then getting inside the paint numerous times and scoring. In nearly four minutes, Valley went on a 22-3 run ,led by forward Liseth Orrego who fought for the ball and would finish as the high scorer of the game with 15 points and 2 rebounds.

The Seahawks tried to get back in the game but Valley's defense was too strong for them. Valley's full-court press led to two backcourt calls on Harbor and many steals, which led to easy lay-ups for the Lady Monarchs.

"They did good," said coach Ruth Seja when asked how she felt her girls played. "They started off slow because of first-game jitters, but they definitely showed what they were capable of in the second half."

When asked how good she felt about her chances for the games to come, Seja said, "We look at the teams we are going to play and set up a game plan. We never go in blind."

Coach Seja said that this is an unselfish team, they work together and there is no standout player right now. However, as these girls play together, more and more they will become better as a team and show what they can really do.

JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR

VALLEY ON THE OFFENSE – Harbor College Forward Bobbie Villanueva (10) had no defense against Valley College Guard La'Day Venson (5) under the net at Monarch Gym Nov. 7.